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HEALTH 15 OCT 57 C.R.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Upon the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT
For the year ending 31st. December 1955.

STATISTICS.

1.	Area.	-	39,797 acres.
2.	Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population 1955 (mid-year)	-	5,030
3.	Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to Rate Book.	-	1962.
4.	Rateable Value	-	29875
5.	Sum represented by a penny rate.	-	112.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate.
(Legitimate)	62	27	35	13.5 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.
(Illegitimate)	6	2	4	
	68	29	39	
Still Births.	1	1	-	
Deaths.	76	36	40	Death Rate 15.1. per 1,000 of estimated population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	-	Nil.
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age	-	3 (legitimate 2) (illegitimate 1)
All Infants per 1000 live births	-	44
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births		32.
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live "		166
Death Rate from Cancer (All Ages)	-	13
Deaths from Measles (All Ages)	-	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (All Ages)	-	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	Nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (part-time)

Dr. D. T. Mc. Donald, M.D., Ch.B. (Edin)
South Bank, Belford.

SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

W. R. Kirk, M.S.I.A.,
Seabank, Seahouses.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE DURING 1955.

During the year the following cases of Infectious and Notifiable Diseases were notified in the district.

Measles	128	Whooping Cough ...	10
Chickenpox	48	Tuberculosis ...	9
Scarlet Fever..	3	Pneumonia ...	2
Food Poisoning.	1		

Total 201.

MEASLES. which was epidemic in an adjoining rural district appeared in March in the southernpart of the district. It spread north to the children attending the Primary School in Belford, where it became epidemic during May, June and July. School children were first of all attacked, and then it spread to the younger age groups, until practically every unprotected child in the area contracted the disease. It is interesting to note that the last epidemic in the Belford area of similar dimensions occurred in October, November, and December 1946 - nine years ago. This would indicate that in a rural area, it takes almost 10 years until an unprotected population grows up, who can produce measles in epidemic forms If this is true Belford should be ripe for another epidemic in 1964 or thereabouts. There were no deaths from measles.

CHICKENPOX.- appeared in the Lucker area in January, in Bamburgh and District in April, and in Seahouses and Beadnell in June.

WHOOPING COUGH. - a few cases appeared among children in Seahouses, Warenford, and Chathill areas in September and October.

SCARLET FEVER - Three mild cases occurred, two in Seahouses and one in Belford.

FOOD POISONING.- One case occurred in Belford in a man who had been on holiday in Scotland where he contracted the disease.

INFLUENZA. - The District was free of this disease during the year.

There were 76 Deaths in the District during the Year one fewer than last year. The Death Rate being 15.1 per 1,000 which is again considerably higher than the figure for the whole country.

The chief causes of Death were

Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels	...	40.
Cancer (Lung Cancer 2)	...	13
Diseases of Respiratory System.	...	7

The Ages at Death were as follows:-

Under 1 year.	30 -40 yrs.	40-50 yrs.	50-60 yrs.	60-70 yrs.	70-80 yrs.
3	4	2	9	12	24

80 -90 yrs.	90-100 yrs.	Over 100 yrs.
20	2	Nil.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The Council owned supplies to the Townships of Belford, Seahouses, Beadnell, and the newly acquired supply to Bamburgh proved satisfactory during the year and no shortage occurred beyond the normal drop in pressure due to increased demand during the summer months.

Samples taken from each of these supplies showed them to be free from bacteria.

At Belford the Borehole pump was again extensively used and showed signs of a lowering of the yield. An alternative supply is required in preference to the replacement of the pumping plant.

This need should be met by the Warenton Dene supply when it comes into operation. The Minister's approval having been given the Scheme is being prepared to go to tender.

At Seahouses pumping was required between mid July and mid September to meet the demand of the holiday period. Here too additional supplies are required to replace the excessively hard water from the borehole.

At Bamburgh the lack of a service reservoir was shown by a considerable reduction of pressure at times of peak demand. The cascading tank was brought into action and had the effect of halving the free carbon dioxide and in consequence has raised the pH value to 7.0. The lead solvency (L.G.B) is also considerably less and is now 0.1 parts per million.

COUNTY WATER SCHEME.

No progress has been made towards the participation by the Council in this Scheme.

Water is supplied from the Council's mains to houses in the following Parishes:-

PARISH.	Piped into House.	By Standpipe.	Total No. Houses.
North Sunderland.	581.	63	644
Belford	330	2	332
Beadnell..	186	28	214
Ellingham.	50	3	53
Adderstone with Lucker	36	12	48
Bamburgh.	152	20	172
Totals.	1335	128	1463

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

BEADNELL. A start was made early in the year and the new system was fully operative by the year end. A careful watch was kept on the outfall and the flow was swept well out into the bay with the flood tide and out to sea with the ebb.

NORTH SUNDERLAND. The storm water sewer to relieve flooding near the school was completed and proved completely satisfactory.

The North Sunderland Sewerage Scheme was given the Minister's approval after an Inquiry, and it is hoped to go to tender early next year.

BELFORD. Samples of the effluent from the Sewage Works were again found to be unsatisfactory, though not seriously so. Enlargement of the works, not fully justified, is the only answer to the problem.

H O U S I N G.

The Council now owns 240 houses, 6 of which were built during the year, making a total of 164 built since 1945.

Improvement Grants. - Housing Act 1949.

	No.of Separate Houses.
Applications received during the year.	33
Applications approved.	33
Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme.	85

Details of Proposals submitted to Ministry under Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, S.I.

Part 1.	(i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954, and suitable for action under Sec.11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936	61
	(ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i).....	5
Part 2.	(iii) Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders, or owned by the local authority.....	Nil.
	(iv) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compuslory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative.....	Nil
Part 3.	(v) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compuslory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years.....	Nil
	(vi) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister..... .	35
	(vii) Number of houses under (iii),(iv),(v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, for temporary accommodation.....	Nil.
	(viii) Number of houses under (iii), (iv)(v) and (vi) to be demolished if the five years.....	35
	(ix) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.....	26

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ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES.

CLOSING & DEMOLITION.

		No. of Houses.
1.	Houses delolished in Clearance Areas	-
2.	Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.	-
3.	Houses closed, not demolished	-
4.	Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	2

REPAIRS.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:-

1.	By informal action	48
2.	By owners, following statutory notice	-
3.	By local authority in default of owners	-
4.	Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	-

FOOD PREMISES.

There are two privately owned Slaughter-houses in the District. One at Belford used by the butcher there and one at Seahouses used jointly by the other four butchers in the District. Neither of these Slaughterhouses match up to modern standards and were licensed to cover the interim period envisaged by the Inter-Departmental Committee of Slaughterhouses.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	273	Nil.	7	886	143	Nil.
Number inspected.	258	Nil.	7	847	139	Nil.
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned.	3		2	16	1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	92		2	37	3	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	36.8		57.0	6.3	2.9.	
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned.	-		-	-	-	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	14				1	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	5.4		-	-	.8	
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-		-	-	-	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-		-	-	-	
Generalised and totally condemned.	-		-	-	-	

FOOD PREMISES.

The number of shops and other premises where food is sold or prepared remains unchanged as follows:-

Butchers	6
Bakers (with Bakeries attached)...	6
Grocers & General Dealers. ...	18
Greengrocers.	4
Confectioners	9
Fishmongers.	1
do. (with vans only) ...	3
Fish & Chip Shops.	4
Cafes. ...	5
Hotels. ...	17
Boarding Houses (5 or more beds)..	6
Public Houses (excluding licensed hotels)	8

FOOD INSPECTION.

12 Visits were made to food shops and the following were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

12 Tins cooked meats ...	97½lbs.
Home killed beef. ...	102 lbs.

Milk.

Milk is retailed by 9 dealers, of whom 6 are producer/retailers. 2 sell T.T. milk and 4 ungraded milk.
Of the 3 retailers, 2 sell T.T.milk and 1 Pasteurised Milk.

Ice-cream. There are two premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream, and 16 for the sale of ice-cream where pre-packed ice-cream only is sold.

Owing to the distance involved it is not practicable to get samples to the Public Analysts in Newcastle. Regular inspections are made of the manufacturers' premises and plant.

Public Cleansing.

The Council's Scavenging Service remains confined to the collection of household refuse in the four main villages of Belford, Bamburgh, Seahouses and Beadnell.

The number of houses served is now 1154. The service entails the working of a considerable amount of overtime and with 800 additional houses in the area the extension of the service to cover the whole area becomes more practicable and desirable.

Rodent Control.

The joint employment with Norham & Islandshires R.D.C. of a rodent operative continues to work satisfactorily.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	Non-Agricultural.				
	(1) Local Authory.	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council houses)	(3) All other (incldg. business premises.	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	(5) Agricultural.
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	10	1967	413	2790	104
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification.		22	4	26	5
(b) Survey under the Act.	10	1900	200	2110	68
(c) Otherwise.	-	-	-	-	-
III. Total inspections carried out incldg. re-inspections	-	-	-	-	-
IV. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats (Major	3	5	1	9	4
(Minor	1	150	10	161	11
(b) Mice. ((Major	-	3	1	4	3
(Minor.		60	4	64	15
V. Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the L.A.	4	263	11	278	4
VI. Total treatments carried out- including re-treatments.	-	-	-	-	-

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